

Edinburgh Tram Inquiry Office Use Only

Witness Name: David MITCHELL

Dated: 24/10/16

THE EDINBURGH TRAM INQUIRY
Witness Statement of David MITCHELL

Statement taken by Raymond Gray on 4 October 2016.

My full name is David Mitchell. I am aged 59, my date of birth being [REDACTED]. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

My current occupation is a solicitor with a city centre Law Firm although I now work on a part time basis.

Statement:

1. At the present time I work with a Law Firm at Charlotte Square, Edinburgh where we have been based since 2003. I would not say that the tram works through the city centre had any direct impact on our business. In addition the tram project had no effect on my commuting to and from work as this was a short walk that did not come near any works.
2. During the course of the Tram Project I followed its progress through the media. I know that there was an Environmental Report produced prior to the tram work commencing. I believe that this report included a carbon calculation. I have attempted to find a copy of this carbon calculation online but have been unable to locate one. I have not enquired with City of Edinburgh Council to ascertain if they have a copy of this report.
3. Around 2011 the tram project was halted due to a dispute between the council and the contractors. At this time I feel there should have been a

further environmental report carried out. Given that the project being undertaken differed vastly from the original plan and timescales for a tram network. I think this would have made sense. This would have provided an accurate assessment of differences between the carbon calculations for the original tram plans and the tram system eventually implemented. I have been unsuccessful in my attempts to ascertain if there was indeed a further environmental report undertaken when the work was temporarily halted. My question is whether there was a further environmental report done, and if not, then what were the reasons. Secondly was there a requirement in place within the tram project for a report to be done as it had changed from the original plans. Finally can a process be put in place to ensure that any similar future projects in future are accountable for the production of environmental reports should there be a significant change from the original plans and timescales.

4. The reason for my contact with the Edinburgh Tram Inquiry is that I am interested in how major structural projects impact on the environment and who is or should be responsible for these projects. I have no active role with any environmental parties or groups. I do however pay £3 per month per month as a membership subscription to Friends of the Earth.

I confirm that the facts to which I attest in this witness statement, consisting of this and the preceding one page are within my direct knowledge and are true. Where they are based on information provided to me by others, I confirm that they are true to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

Witness signature. 

Date of signing..... 23 October 2016